

REMARKS

Upon entry of this Response, claims 2-8 and 10-15 remain pending in the present patent application. Claims 2, 4, 7, 10, 11, 12, and 14 have been amended, and claims 1, 9, and 16-18 have been canceled. The amendments presented herein have been made for the sole purpose of placing this application in condition for allowance. Applicant expressly reserves the right to pursue the subject matter of any canceled claims in a continuing application. Applicant request reconsideration of the pending claims in view of the following remarks.

In item 2 of the Office Action, the disclosure is objected to for the reasons noted. Applicant presents amendments to the specification herein that address these objections. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the objection to the disclosure be withdrawn.

In item 3 of the Office Action, the drawings have been objected to as including item 215 that was not mentioned in the specification. Applicant has amended the specification to include item 215 where it was erroneously omitted. Accordingly, no amendment to the drawings is necessary and Applicant requests that the objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

Next, in item 5 of the Office Action, claims 1-4, 7, 9-12, 14, and 16-18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,594,229 issued to Gregorat in view of U.S. Patent 5,189,668 issued to Takatri et al. Claims 1, 9, and 16-18 have been canceled herein, thereby rendering this rejection moot with respect to such claims. In addition, claims 2-4, 7, 10-12, and 14 have been amended so as to depend from allowable claims 5 or 13. Accordingly, Applicant asserts that claims 2-4, 7, 10-12, and 14 are in condition for allowance and Applicant requests that the rejection of these claims be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

It is requested that all outstanding objections and rejections be withdrawn and that this application and all presently pending claims be allowed to issue. If the Examiner has any questions or comments regarding this Response, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned counsel of Applicants.

Respectfully submitted,

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